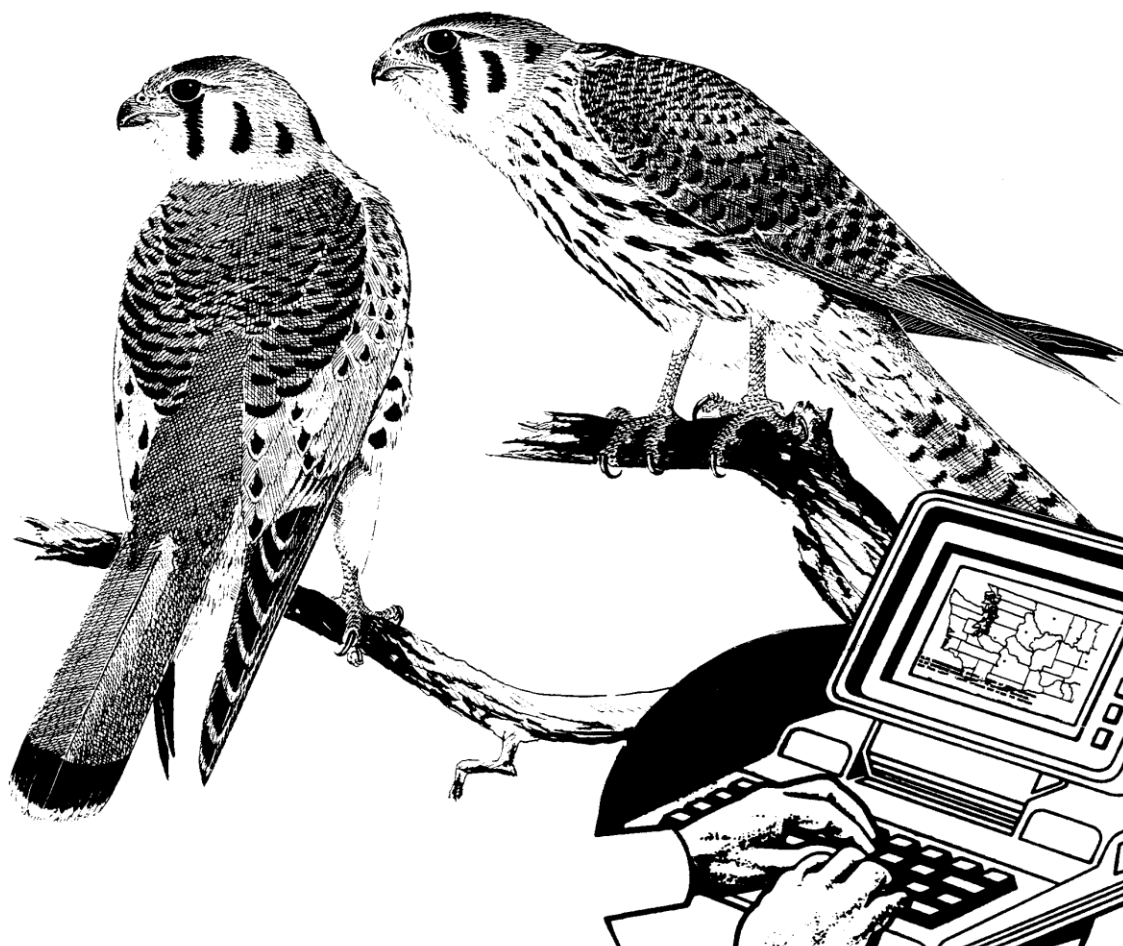


Mailing Address: 600 CAPITOL WAY NORTH, OLYMPIA WASHINGTON 98501-1091

W Washington

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

July 2009



DESCRIBING DATASET STRUCTURES (V3)
FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM
DIGITAL DATA

Visit Our Web Site At: <http://wdfw.wa.gov>

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

DESCRIPTION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE DIGITAL DATA STRUCTURES

INTRODUCTION

This document is a brief synopsis of selected digital fish, wildlife and habitat data available from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) which support the Department's Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) Program. ***More detailed information about each dataset, including information on data compilation methods, data organization, structure, and details on using the digital data, are available in formal metadata maintained for each dataset and distributed with the datasets.*** This document provides links to other sources of information and contacts at WDFW for further assistance.

Data described here are developed and maintained by WDFW using Geographic Information System (GIS) software. Databases covered in this document contain WDFW's knowledge of fish and wildlife resources and occurrences based on research and field surveys conducted over the past 30 + years. It is important to note, however, that habitats and species may occur on the ground in areas not currently known to WDFW biologists or in areas for which comprehensive surveys have not been conducted. Site-specific surveys are frequently necessary to rule out the presence of priority species or habitat types.

The PHS distribution dataset structures described below are organized by 'collection', which to a large degree reflects the major business areas of the Department:

DISTRIBUTION DATASETS

Wildlife Survey Data Management (WSDM)

Datasets containing species site observations from field surveys to reports from reputable sources.

- **ws_occurpoint_dr/ws_occurpolygon_dr** - This data represents a subset of WSDM and includes information for WDFW designated priority species. Documented point and polygon observations for state and federal listed species including those designated as endangered, threatened, sensitive, candidate and monitor are included. Other species occurrences including non-priority species, unlisted species, and historical or low accuracy data have been excluded.
- **ws_murreletobs_v** - A table showing murrelet observation attributes. Spatial geometry for sites are contained in ws_occurpoint_dr.
- **ws_mmdetsect** - Public land survey sections containing murrelet detection locations.
- **ws_mmadj8sects** – Murrelet detection and surrounding public land survey sections which fall within a 3/4 mile buffer around the detection section.

- **baldeagle_bf** - Buffers of bald eagle nests, communal roosts, and shorelines that fall within a half-mile of nests.
- **owls** - Locations of spotted owl sites and associated management buffers.
- **bfterr/bfnoterr** – Territorial and non-territorial spotted owl sites.
- **bfhsterr** – Historic spotted owl sites.
- **haulouts** - Seal and sea lion haulout sites.

Priority Habitats and Species Areas, Addendum

An inventory of priority species use areas and habitats based on WDFW biologist knowledge. Supplements and extends information originally contained in the Department's Heritage Database. Heritage data is now managed as part of WSDM.

- **phsregion_sv** – Overlapping polygons that describe occurrences of priority habitats and species. Extends the scope of the WSDM datasets.
- **phspts_sv** – Information on documented priority habitat sites.
- **phssrc** – Data source records for phsregion_sv and phspts_sv.
- **sbirdcat** - Locations surveyed for breeding seabirds and listed in 'Catalog of Washington Seabird Colonies' by Steven M Speich, et al. published August 1989.
- **nwipoly_sv** – National Wetlands Inventory. An inventory identifying wetland and deep water habitats based on data derived from high altitude color infrared aerial photographs. This layer was compiled from NWI digital data available in approximately 1990.

Washington Lakes and Rivers Information System (WLRIS)

An inventory of priority anadromous/resident fish distributions including stock status.

- **fishdist_sv** - Spatial representation of anadromous and resident fish distribution.
- **sasi_sv** - Salmonid Stock Inventory (SASI) is a standardized, uniform approach to identifying and monitoring the status of Washington's salmonid fish stocks. The inventory is a compilation of data on all wild stocks and a scientific determination of each stock's status.

Marine Environment

A collection of marine and shellfish data resources.

- **herrhold** - Locations of documented Pacific herring (*Clupea harengus*) adult holding areas (WDF, 1984, as amended 1986).
- **herrspwn** - Locations of documented Pacific herring (*Clupea harengus pallasii*) spawning areas through 1991.
- **rocksole** - Documented rocksole (*Lepidopsetta bilineata*) spawning areas at specific sites throughout Puget Sound and Washington coastal areas and bays.
- **shellfish_summary** - Locations of shellfish from WDF Tech Report 79. The shellfish include abalone (generalized to the township level), hardshell clam, subtidal clam, dungeness crab, geoduck clam, manila clam, native oysters, pacific oyster, razor clam, pandalid shrimp, and red urchin.
- **doc_sand_lance_spawning** - Documented intertidal spawning habitat for Pacific sand lance (*Ammodytes hexapterus*) in western Washington's marine waters.

- **doc_smelt_spawning** - Documented intertidal spawning habitat for surf smelt (*Hypomesus pretiosus*) in western Washington's marine waters.
- **forage_fish_survey** – Presence or absence (lack of detectable spawn) for intertidal spawning habitat for Pacific sand lance (*Ammodytes hexapterus*) and surf smelt (*Hypomesus pretiosus*) in western Washington's marine waters.
- **forage_fish_survey_pts** – Survey locations of spawning habitat for Pacific sand lance (*Ammodytes hexapterus*) and surf smelt (*Hypomesus pretiosus*) in western Washington's marine waters. The line segments portrayed in the Pacific sand lance and surf smelt, in the layers above, were derived from these survey location points.

DISTRIBUTION FORMATS

PHS datasets are distributed in commonly supported format:

- ESRI Personal Geodatabase (v9.2) – Spatial data, associated attributes, and tables are contained in a Microsoft Access database.
- ESRI Shapefile – Spatial data is contained in standard shape files. Associated attributes and tabular data are stored as Dbase “.dbf” files. Column names may be truncated and have not been mapped to aliases.
- Geographic Markup Language (GML) – Spatial and associated attributes are contained in industry standard GML (GML Simple Features SF-0 Profile). Tabular data is contained in a Microsoft Access2000 database.

All spatial data is provided in Washington State’s standard spatial reference, Washington State Plane South Feet, North American Datum of 1983 (1991 Adjustment – HARN).

XML and HTML formatted metadata files for all distributed datasets are provided in the metadata content standard specified by the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC).

A typical distribution package may include empty datasets indicating that features contained in the statewide layer did not overlap the geographic area for which data was requested. The features representing the geographic area requested and the buffer used to clip the statewide datasets are included in the distribution package as “projectbdry” and “projectbdryclip” respectively.

OTHER DATA

Information on kelp beds, oak stands, eelgrass, turf algae and township /section data are available from the Washington Department of Natural Resources. For information on these data in a digital format visit their web site at:

http://dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/Data/Pages/gis_data_center.aspx.

USE OF THE DATA

Digital data products are supported by documents titled *Management Recommendations for Priority Habitats and Species*. These management recommendations are developed with a thorough review of the best scientific literature available. They provide important

background information on each species or habitat type and recommendations for conducting land uses that consider the needs of fish and wildlife. When a priority habitat or species occurs in or near a project site, these management recommendations should be consulted to determine how to modify the project in consideration of fish and wildlife needs.

Your project may require further field inspection or you may need to contact our field biologists or others in WDFW to assist you in interpreting and applying this information. Generally, for assistance on a specific project, you should contact the WDFW Habitat Program Manager for your county and ask for the area habitat biologist for your project area. Refer to the enclosed directory for those contacts. Contact information is also available on line at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/regions/index.html>.

These databases do not represent exhaustive inventories. They are compilations of existing knowledge from field biologists that are updated as knowledge improves. Because these fish and wildlife data are not exhaustive and subject to change, project review for fish and wildlife should not rest solely on mapped priority habitats and species. Instead, they should also consider new information gathered from field investigations.

Please note these databases may contain some species and habitats that are not considered priority by the agency. Some species may be excluded, if a more complete dataset is needed than a special request must be made at the time you place your order. Also, because the databases are subject to change, digital data should not be used if they are over six months old; please request updated data rather than use old information.

Information on specific locations of selected fish and wildlife is considered sensitive by the Director of WDFW and will be released in standard formats only. This format may be either tabular, digital, and/or displayed on a 1:24,000 scale map. WDFW standard map format consists of fish, wildlife, and habitat information displayed for an individual section with a one square mile buffer (nine square miles total). WDFW will release sensitive fish and wildlife information under its Releasing Sensitive Fish and Wildlife Information Policy – 5210 to the following parties in conjunction with the signing of a Release Agreement.

- A. Government agencies;
- B. Tribes;
- C. Researchers affiliated with an accredited college or university;
- D. Private landowners (for their lands), or other parties with permission from the landowner; or
- E. Agents of the above parties (e.g., consultants, realtors, etc.).

Sensitive fish and wildlife information for less than thirty-six square miles (one Township) may be provided to these parties along with a request for a signed Sensitive Fish and Wildlife Information Release Agreement. WDFW will grant subsequent sensitive information only to those parties from whom the signed agreement has been obtained.

The Release Agreement indicates that the signatory (person or organization) recognizes the appropriate guidelines for disseminating Sensitive Fish and Wildlife Information and has agreed to the provisions of the policy. For additional information or questions contact WDFW at (360) 902-2543.

Generalized and non-sensitive fish and wildlife information may be provided to those who do not meet policy guidelines.

For more information on WDFW please visit our web site at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/> or visit the Priority Habitats and Species site at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/phspage.htm>.

For information on the state's endangered, threatened, and sensitive plants as well as high quality wetland and terrestrial ecosystems, please contact the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Program at PO Box 47016, Olympia Washington 98504-7016, by phone (360) 902-1667 or visit their web site at: http://dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/NaturalHeritage/Pages/amp_nh.aspx.

**WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
REGIONAL CONTACTS**

For assistance with Priority Habitats and Species information, contact the appropriate regional office, listed below.

County...	Contact...
Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman	Eastern Office - Region 1 2325 North Discovery Place Spokane Valley, WA 99216-1566 Phone: (509) 892-1001
Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant Okanogan	North Central Office - Region 2 1550 Alder Street NW Ephrata, WA 98823-9699 Phone: (509) 754-4624
Benton, Franklin, Kittitas, Yakima	South Central Office - Region 3 1701 South 24 th Avenue Yakima, WA 98902-9651 Region 3 Phone: (509) 575-2740
Island, King, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom	North Puget Sound Office - Region 4 16018 Mill Creek Boulevard Mill Creek, WA 98012-1296 Phone: (206) 775-1311
Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Lewis, Skamania, Wahkiakum	Southwest Office - Region 5 2108 Grand Boulevard Vancouver, WA 98661 Phone: (360) 696-6211
Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Thurston	Coastal Office - Region 6 48 Devenshire Road Montesano, WA 98563-9618 Phone: (360) 249-4628